

WEATHER FORECAST.
Showers and warmer to-day; to-morrow
fair.
Highest temperature yesterday, 59; lowest, 45.
Detailed weather reports on editorial page.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

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PRICE TWO CENTS.

THREE U.S. PLANES HALF WAY ACROSS OCEAN; START IS MADE FROM TREPASSEY AT 6:09 P. M.; MORE THAN 650 MILES OUT AFTER NINE HOURS

GERMANS PLAN FIGHT ON WAR GUILT CHARGE

Ask for Court Not Composed
of Accusers in Challenge
to Allies.

HOPE FOR HELP OF U. S.

Documents Found in Vienna
May Shift Onus, Is Ten-
ton Belief.

By KARL H. VON WIEGAND.
Staff Correspondent of The Sun.
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BERLIN, May 14 (delayed).—The German Government is planning to call up the entire question of guilt in connection with the outbreak of the war and to challenge the allied Governments. It is so convinced of the innocence of its own statements that it will submit all state documents and data bearing upon the subject to an international neutral court to be held in Germany.

There is reason to believe that the German Government is prepared to shift from defensive to offensive tactics on this question. The note of Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, the head of the German peace delegation, in answer to the confession of guilt contained in the treaty of peace, may be interpreted as a prelude to a move in the direction of a demand to be made at Versailles for an investigation of the whole question by an impartial commission or court which is not composed of "accusers and judges at the same time," and perhaps an appeal to the public opinion of all countries to support that demand in the interest of truth and justice.

No German Government, Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau declared to me shortly before his departure for Versailles, would ever sign a verdict that Germany alone was the guilty factor in the world war, if such were rendered by the allied and associated governments in the terms of peace presented. He pointed out that such governments themselves were interested in seeing that Germany alone should be declared guilty and therefore, under the fundamental principles of law, were not competent to sit as a court.

Surprises Are Prepared.

From authentic sources it has been learned that a commission has been appointed to take up the question from Germany's viewpoint, and that it is making extensive preparations to support such a demand at Versailles with state documents. There are rumors which are difficult to verify that evidence has been found which may create some surprise, among others that documents have been discovered in Vienna which throw a new and somewhat different light on the Serbian ultimatum and Germany's attitude toward it than what has been published hitherto. How far these reports are based on truth cannot be learned.

Germany, according to those who are in a position to know what is going on in official minds, will take the attitude that the German people cannot permit the brand of sole guilt for the terrible war to be placed upon their forefathers in history without a demand for an impartial investigation from all sides and of all hands by an international court or commission competent under the fundamental principles of law to make such an inquiry.

It is contended, especially in intellectual circles, that to permit such a brand of Cain to be placed hastily upon the brow of the German people without an energetic protest and a demand for a world trial would be interpreted in the future as an admission of sole guilt and would be a crime by the German Government against its own people.

The line to be followed undoubtedly will be that laid down by Foreign Minister von Brockdorff-Rantzau in his speech at Versailles, that the Germany of the former regime was not without its share of guilt in bringing about the war, but it was not the only guilty nation, assumed by the Allies.

Trap Laid for Allies.

The belief seems to prevail here that the very factors which make it "impossible" for the German Govern-

G. O. P. DECIDES ON ECONOMIES AND REFORMS

Tax Cuts and Higher Tariff
in Plans of House Steering
Committee.

CAUCUS TO FAVOR THEM

Suffrage Bill to Pass, Luxury
Imports to Go and Budget
System Favored.

Special Despatch to The Sun.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—The course to be pursued by the Republican leaders was mapped out to-day by the Steering Committee of the House, of which Representative Mondell (Wyo.) is chairman, and just the formality of final action by the committee and by the caucus to-morrow night remains.

The only big question neglected by the programme to be followed are the future policy respecting the army and navy and the investigations into wanton waste and extreme extravagance of the Democratic party while it held the upper hand in Congress.

The sum and substance of the Republican programme is this:
Immediate passage of the regular appropriation bill, which has been postponed two and a half months by the refusal of the President to call Congress earlier.

Immediate return of the telephone and telegraph lines to private operation.

Early action on the proposed amendment to the Constitution granting suffrage to women.

Maintenance of a policy of rigid governmental economy.

Establishment of a budget system for handling the national expenditures.

Immediate consideration of legislation for the solution of the railroad and shipping problems.

Immediate repeal of the luxury taxes.

Reduction of taxes and legislation on the tariff to make greater revenues and to protect industries, particularly those which have grown up since the beginning of the war.

Immediate consideration of legislation for taking care of returning soldiers.

Programme Not Restricted.

The adoption of this programme by the Republican caucus to-morrow night—which is a foregone conclusion—does not mean, as was explained to-day by members of the Steering Committee, that the party will feel in any way bound to restrict its legislative programme to the subjects enumerated.

It was felt that to avoid the charge of attempting to embarrass the Administration the regular supply bills must be acted upon first, as many are effective on July 1. Of the necessity of taking the telephone and telegraph systems out of the hands of the Administration there was not the least doubt in the Steering Committee and little opposition to this measure is expected even in the minority party on account of the mess already brought about by Postmaster-General Burleson.

Suffrage is to be made a party measure, and its passage through the House by the two-thirds vote necessary is virtually certain. The House action may be sufficient to swing the Senate.

Legislation on the shipping policy will not be enacted until after the utmost consideration has been given to every phase of it by committee.

Consumption Taxes May Go Too.

The repeal of the luxury taxes has been demanded constantly since the last tax bill became law, and the Republican party in the House may not only repeal these taxes, but a great many if not all of the other consumption taxes.

As to taking care of returning soldiers, none of the plans submitted by members of Congress and by the Administration has been gone into thoroughly enough yet to determine which plan will solve the question. Some House committee members will attack this problem, with instruction to use all speed possible.

The Steering Committee felt that it was necessary to include investigations of the enormous extravagance of the Democrats as a part of the legislative programme, as they are considered as inevitable as the sunrise.

Determination of a military and naval policy was omitted from the programme purposely to give time for the return of peace time conditions. The army bill submitted by the Administration providing for an army of slightly more than 500,000 men has an excellent chance of passing pending the threatening out of the question of universal military training and other questions.

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